

Compares University Student Life in the Sudan with that in France, Sweden

(from Black to White)
By Sister Christine

By observing the structure of the buildings which house students in a city and the layout of a city one learns much about the inhabitants of that city. I wish to state briefly a few facts existing in three countries — the Sudan, France and Sweden. These observations were made on a student level.

I BELIEVE if one reflects on the few facts to be given, one will find much proof of the Honorable Messenger's teachings in relation to the weakness of the end-product derived from grafting the pale one from the original.

(In all three countries university education is government sponsored, and supervised — fees, if any, are very small.)

We will begin with the

clean, black inhabitants of that very hospitable and warm country, the Sudan. Wherever one finds females living, in the Sudan, one will find a high wall surrounding their living quarters, providing privacy.

EVERY HOME in the Islamic community is surrounded by a high wall. Every girls' institution of learning has a large wall encircling it. The girls' dormitory at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, was surrounded by a wall approximately seven feet high, with guards at the gates to prevent the entrance of any male (male relatives included.)

No girl was permitted to sleep outside the dormitory with the exception of holidays and weekends — when she was allowed to go to the

home of her family or relatives.) The gates to the dormitory closed at 10 p.m.

The only place a female student could go in the evenings was to the student union, library or the cinema (which is very near the campus with a special seating area for single female students.)

FEMALE students in the Sudan bathed at least two times a day (not taking into account the ablutions for prayer.) One had no need to worry about possessions being stolen in the Sudan. Female Muslim students regarded one another as sisters, and shared their possessions accordingly. All Muslim students, male and female, had to live at the university.

Moving northwest to a much cooler climate and
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country, France, one finds that French students generally lived on top floors in apartments, or in single rooms in private homes. I resided at the residence de la Cite' Universitaire, Nanterre, which is located in the suburb of Nanterre (a 15-minute train ride from Paris.)

There were no walls to protect and provide privacy for the female students, nor were there any guards to prevent the male students from entering the girls' dormitory. In fact every night the male students came to the girls' dormitory, where there was a bar, to dance to the party music which always played loudly.

THERE WAS no house mother to check and see if the female students spent their nights at the male residence. At night one could yell down the hall of the residence I lived in and (out of the 50 rooms on my floor) one would seldom find three girls in their rooms. There was no closing time at this residence.

These French female students bathed completely, perhaps once every two weeks or month (this is no exaggeration.) The girls took a sponge bath maybe once a week — they concentrated on their faces, which they cleansed and powdered daily.

The French girls teased the original girls for bathing as frequently as once a day... they joked that we wanted to wash our skins to become white. The French students on the whole are poor, consequently one must watch one's belongings closely to keep them.

TRAVELING farther north and a little east, we go to the land of the pale-skinned, blue eyed, blond inhabitants of the extremely cold climate and country, Sweden. One will find at student residences, such as Vigangsvagen and Kungsha-

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mra, that male and female students live in the same buildings. The students lived in communities much on the order of the projects here in America for low income families.

There are no rules or regulations on the conduct of the students, and they mix with seemingly no moral limitations. All that one can imagine of indecent and immoral relations between the two sexes exists openly in Sweden.

The girls with whom I resided in Stockholm took only light sponge-offs in the morning. They bathed in a tub once during the five weeks I lived with them.

The Swedes seem to have no modesty. It was in Sweden on a beach just outside of Stockholm that I saw a man stand up naked to put on his swimming trunks.

I VIEWED a gradual change of man (from black Sudan to white Sweden, South to North, warm climate to cold, clean to unclean) and man's habits as I traveled from black Sudan, down the Nile to a brown and olive complexioned Egyptian, across the Mediterranean Sea to the olive people of Greece and Italy, through France and up to the pale Swedes.

This gradual change was the decomposition of value from black to white. By just reflecting on this quick observation by a student of student conditions and life, one cannot help but see and associate the degeneration of man's morals with the respective loss in man's color. And through this association, one cannot help but bear witness to the truth of the teachings of the Honorable Messenger, Elijah Muhammad.